

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A contact charger comprising a charging brush having brush fibers for charging, and auxiliary charging particles having acicular forms.
2. The contact charger according to claim 1, wherein an aspect ratio of said auxiliary charging particles is in a range from 2 to 10000.
3. The contact charger according to claim 1, wherein an aspect ratio of said auxiliary charging particles is in a range from 10 to 200.
4. The contact charger according to claim 1, wherein a length L (μm) of a long axis of said auxiliary charging particle and a thickness of T (deniers) of each of said fibers of said charging brush satisfy a relationship of $L^2/T \leq 200$.
5. The contact charger according to claim 4, wherein the length L (μm) of the long axis of said auxiliary charging particle and the thickness of T (deniers) of each of said fibers of said charging brush satisfy a relationship of $L^2/T \leq 50$.
6. The contact charger according to claim 4, wherein

the length L (μm) of the long axis of said auxiliary charging particle and the thickness of T (deniers) of each of said fibers of said charging brush satisfy a relationship of $L^2/T \geq 0.001$.

7. The contact charger according to claim 1, wherein a primary particle diameter of said auxiliary charging particles is in a range from 0.05 μm to 10 μm .

8. The contact charger according to claim 1, wherein a primary particle diameter of said auxiliary charging particles is in a range from 0.1 μm to 5 μm .

9. The contact charger according to claim 1, wherein said auxiliary charging particles exhibit an average adhesion amount from 0.3 mg/cm^3 to 20 mg/cm^3 in a space filled with said brush fibers.

10. The contact charger according claim 1, wherein said auxiliary charging particles have a volume resistivity not exceeding $1 \times 10^{10} \Omega \cdot \text{cm}$.

11. The contact charger according claim 10, wherein said auxiliary charging particles have a volume resistivity from $1 \times 10^{-4} \Omega \cdot \text{cm}$ to $1 \times 10^{10} \Omega \cdot \text{cm}$.

12. The contact charger according to claim 1,
wherein

the brush fibers of said charging brush have a
thickness from 1 denier to 10 deniers.

13. The contact charger according to claim 1,
wherein

a filling density of brush fibers of said charging
brush is in a range from 120 pcs/mm² to 10000 pcs/mm².

14. The contact charger according claim 1, wherein
the brush fibers of said charging brush have a
volume resistivity from $1 \times 10^1 \Omega \cdot \text{cm}$ to $1 \times 10^8 \Omega \cdot \text{cm}$.

15. The contact charger according to claim 1,
wherein

said charging brush has a roller form, and the brush
fibers of the brush roller were subjected to a hair-
inclining processing to incline the brush fibers toward
upstream in a rotating direction of the brush roller.

16. An image forming apparatus for forming an image
in an electrophotographic manner, comprising:

a contact charger including a charging brush having
brush fibers for charging, and auxiliary charging
particles having acicular forms;

a photosensitive member to be charged by said contact charger;

an exposing device performing image exposure on said photosensitive member to form an electrostatic latent image; and

a developing device developing the electrostatic latent image on said photosensitive member.

17. The image forming apparatus according to claim 16, wherein

said charging brush has a roller form, and is arranged to be driven to rotate in such manner that a surface of the brush roller moves counter to a moving direction of a surface of the photosensitive member with an absolute value $|\theta|$ of relative peripheral speed ratio of the brush roller with respect to the photosensitive member satisfying a relationship of $(1 \leq |\theta| < 5)$.

18. The image forming apparatus according to claim 16, wherein

said charging brush has a roller form, and is arranged to be driven to rotate in such manner that a surface of the brush roller moves together with a surface of the photosensitive member with an absolute value $|\theta|$ of relative peripheral speed ratio of the brush roller with

respect to the photosensitive member satisfying a relationship of $(1.5 \leq |\theta| < 5)$.

19. The image forming apparatus according to claim 16, wherein

a push-in amount of the charging brush of said contact charger with respect to the photosensitive member is in a range from 0.1 mm to 2.0 mm.

20. The image forming apparatus according to claim 16, wherein

said charging brush has a roller form, and the brush fibers of the brush roller were subjected to a hair-inclining processing to incline the brush fibers toward upstream in a rotating direction of the brush roller.